ANGELIQUE KIDJO
IBRAHIM MAALOUF
QUEEN OF SHEBA

SEVEN RIDDLES ASKED
BY MAKEDA THE QUEEN OF SHEBA TO KING SALOMON
1 AHAN
2 EYIN
3 OMIJE
4 OGBO
5 ALIKAMA
6 IFE
7 OBINRIN

SEVEN RIDDLES ASKED BY MAKEDA THE QUEEN OF SHEBA TO KING SALOMON

1
AHAN

BUT WHERE DOES THAT
POWER COME FROM?
IS IT YOUR HAND THAT BEARS THE SWORD?
THEN WHAT PART OF YOUR BODY GIVES YOU
THIS INFINITE POWER OVER MEN?
AND WHERE DOES THAT
POWER COME FROM?
IS IT YOUR FOOT THAT RUSHES
TO THE BATTLE FIELD?
THEN WHAT PART OF YOUR BODY GIVES YOU
THIS INFINITE POWER OVER MEN?

ANSWER:
YOUR TONGUE, OH, KING OF KINGS,
IT ENTHRALLS THE ONE WHO LISTENS TO YOU
YOUR TONGUE, OH, KING OF KINGS,
HAS THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH
OVER YOUR PEOPLE

2
EYIN

THIS BIRD HAS NO FLESH
THIS BIRD HAS NO BLOOD
THIS BIRD HAS NO FEATHERS
ITS COLOR IS AS PURE AND
BEAUTIFUL AS GOLD
THIS BIRD MIGHT BE DEAD
OR IT MIGHT BE ALIVE
THIS BIRD DOES NOT MOVE
ITS COLOR IS AS VIRGINAL AND
SWEET AS MILK

ANSWER:
AN EGG HAS NO FLESH
AN EGG HAS NO BLOOD
AN EGG HAS NO FEATHERS
ITS COLOR IS AS PURE AND
BEAUTIFUL AS GOLD
AN EGG MIGHT BE DEAD
OR IT MIGHT BE ALIVE
AN EGG DOES NOT MOVE
ITS COLOR IS AS VIRGINAL AND
SWEET AS MILK

3
OMIJE

SOMETIMES IT IS SWEET,
SOMETIMES IT IS BITTER
THE WATER THAT SUDDENLY
APPEARED ALONG MY JOURNEY
SOMETIMES IT IS HONEYED,
SOMETIMES IT IS HARSH
THE WAVE THAT SEIZED ME
ALL ALONG MY PATH

ANSWER:
THE WATER OF TEARS IS SOMETIMES
SWEET, SOMETIMES IT IS BITTER
THESE TEARS THAT SUDDENLY APPEARED
ALONG YOUR JOURNEY
THE WATER OF TEARS IS SOMETIMES
HONEYED, SOMETIMES IT IS HARSH
THESE TEARS THAT SEIZED YOU
ALL ALONG YOUR PATH

4
OGBO

BIRDS IDOLIZE IT
FISH DESPISE IT
BIRDS IDOLIZE IT
FISH DESPISE IT
IT IS THE RICH MAN'S FINERY
BUT ALSO WHAT THE POOR TAKE
WITH THEM TO THEIR TOMB

ANSWER:
FLAX, FLAX, OH KING OF KINGS.
BIRDS GO MAD OVER ITS LEAVES
FLAX, FLAX, OH KING OF KINGS
FROM WHICH THE NET IS
MADE THAT FISH
SO GREATLY DREAD
FLAX, FLAX, OH KING OF KINGS
THAT BEDECKS YOUR VANITY,
YOU THE MOST
POWERFUL OF MEN
FLAX, FLAX, OH KING OF KINGS
FROM WHICH IS SEWN
THE SHROUD OF
THE INDIGENT MAN,
YOUR BROTHER!

5
ALIKAMA

IT IS BURIED DEEP INSIDE
THE DARKNESS
AND YET IT IS STILL ALIVE!
THE FARTHER IT FADES
INTO THE VOID
THE MORE LIFE AROUND IT
COMES TO BLOOM
IT IS BURIED DEEP INSIDE
THE DARKNESS

ANSWER:
IT IS BURIED DEEP INSIDE
THE DARKNESS
IT IS THE GRAIN OF WHEAT
THE FARMER SOWS,
AND YET IT IS STILL ALIVE!
LIKE THE SEED FROM
WHICH OUR
SON WILL SPRING
IT IS THE GRAIN OF WHEAT
THE FARMER SOWS,
AND THE FARTHER IT FADES
INTO THE VOID

6
IFE

WHAT IS THIS BIT OF NOTHING,
THIS BREATH,
—NO, IT ISN'T LOVE—
WHAT IS THIS BIT OF NOTHING,
THIS SPIRIT,
—NO, IT ISN'T LOVE—
THAT WITH IMPATIENCE MAKES
THE HEART
EXPLODE OF HE WHO FEELS IT?
WHAT IS THIS BIT OF NOTHING,
THIS SPIRIT,
—NO, IT ISN'T LOVE—

ANSWER:
WHAT IS THIS BIT OF NOTHING,
THIS BREATH,
"IT IS MY DESIRE FOR
YOU, MAKEDA"
WHAT IS THIS BIT OF NOTHING,
THIS ETHEREAL SPIRIT,
"IT IS MY DESIRE FOR
YOU, MAKEDA"
IT MAKES MY HEART EXPLODE
WITH IMPATIENCE TONIGHT,
OH LOVELY MAKEDA
WHAT IS THIS BIT OF NOTHING,
THIS BREATH,
"IT IS MY DESIRE FOR
YOU, MAKEDA"

7
OBINRIN

SEVEN, NINE, TWO, ONE, SEVEN
INTERRUPT EACH OTHER

SEVEN, NINE, TWO, ONE, NINE
BEGIN

SEVEN, NINE, TWO, ONE, TWO
OFFER A DRINK
BUT ONLY ONE ACCEPTED!

ANSWER:
SEVEN DAYS INTERRUPT THE
FLOW OF BLOOD

SEVEN, NINE, TWO, ONE
NINE MONTHS BEGIN A
FEVERISH AWAITING

SEVEN, NINE, TWO, ONE
TWO BREASTS OFFER A DRINK TO
SEVEN, NINE, TWO, ONE
ONE THIRSTING LITTLE CHILD!

SEPT ÉNIGMES POSÉES AU ROI SALOMON PAR LA REINE DE SABA

1
AHAN

MAIS D'OÙ PROVIENT CETTE PUISSANCE ?
DE QUELLE PARTIE DE TON CORPS
TIENS-TU LE POUVOIR DE VIE ET DE MORT
SUR LES HOMMES ?

RÉPONSE:
DE LA LANGUE QUI, PAR LA PAROLE,
CHARME ET CONVERTIT LES FOULES.

2
EYIN

CET OISEAU N'A PAS DE CHAIR,
CET OISEAU N'A PAS DE SANG
CET OISEAU N'A PAS DE PLUMES,
SA COULEUR A LA PURETÉ
ET LA BEAUTÉ DE L'OR
CET OISEAU EST PEUT-ÊTRE MORT,
CET OISEAU EST PEUT-ÊTRE VIVANT
CET OISEAU EST IMMOBILE,
SA COULEUR A LA VIRGINITÉ
ET LA DOUCEUR DU LAIT.

RÉPONSE:
C'EST L'ŒUF, UN OISEAU EN DEVENIR,
SANS CHAIR ET SANS PLUMES.

3
OMIJE

ELLE EST PARFOIS DOUCE,
ELLE EST PARFOIS AMÈRE
L'EAU QUI A SURGI TOUT AU
LONG DE MA ROUTE.

RÉPONSE:
CE SONT LES LARMES RÉPANDUES
PAR MAKEDA, LA REINE DE SABA,
SUR LE CHEMIN DE JÉRUSALEM.

4
OGBO

LES OISEAUX L'ADULENT, LES POISSONS LE HAÏSSENT. C'EST LA PARURE DES RICHES, MAIS AUSSI CELLE QU'EMPORTENT LES PAUVRES DANS LEUR TOMBE.

RÉPONSE:
LE LIN QUE PORTENT LES NOBLES ET QUI SERT DE SUAIRE AUX PAUVRES.

5
ALIKAMA

ON L'ENTERRE PROFONDÉMENT DANS LES TÉNÈBRES, ET POURTANT IL EST ENCORE VIVANT ! ET PLUS IL DISPARAIT DANS LE NÉANT, PLUS LA VIE S'ÉPANOUIT AUTOUR DE LUI

RÉPONSE:
LE BLÉ, C'EST UNE GRAINE QUI, ENTERRÉE AU PLUS PROFOND DE LA TERRE, POUSSERA UN JOUR ET NOURRIRA UNE NOUVELLE GÉNÉRATION !

6
IFÉ

QUEL EST CE RIEN, CE SOUFFLE, – NON, CE N'EST PAS L'AMOUR – QUI FAIT EXPLOSER D'IMPATIENCE, LE CŒUR DE CELUI QUI L'ÉPROUVE ?

RÉPONSE:
LE DÉSIR QUI BRÛLE LES CŒURS, MAIS N'EST PAS TOUJOURS PREUVE D'AMOUR.

7
OBÌNRIN

SEPT S'INTERROMPENT, NEUF COMMENCENT DEUX OFFRENT À BOIRE, MAIS UN SEUL A BU.

RÉPONSE:
LA FÉCONDITÉ DE LA FEMME: SEPT JOURS, NEUF MOIS DE GROSSESSE ET DEUX SEINS QUI ALLAITENT UN BÉBÉ.

C. BECHSTEIN

ALL TRACKS PRODUCED, COMPOSED
AND ARRANGED BY IBRAHIM MAALOUF

ALL LYRICS BY ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO

ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO VOICE
IBRAHIM MAALOUF TRUMPETS, PIANO

FRANCOIS DELPORTE ELECTRIC GUITAR, ACOUSTIC GUITAR
MOHAMED DEROUICH ACOUSTIC GUITAR
STÉPHANE GALLAND DRUMS // MAGATTE SOW PERCUSSION
ZACHARY OSTROFF BASS GUITAR // FRANK WOESTE FENDER RHODES

CONDUCTOR IBRAHIM MAALOUF
ORCHESTRA MANAGER THIBAULT MORTEGOUTE

VIOLIN CYRIL BALETON, MARTIN BLONDEAU, LISON FAVARD,
AKÉMI FILLON, DAVID GALOUSTOV, ANNE GRAVOIN,
MARIE-ALIX GRENIER, SARAH KHAVAND, MATHILDE KLEIN,
ABIGEL KRALIK, PAULINE LAVACRY, MANON PHILIPPE LAUDE,
ARNAUD PIENIEZNY, NIKOLA NIKOLOV

VIOLA JULIEN GABEN, TESS JOLY, CLARA LEFÈVRE,
BÉATRICE NACHIN, MATHIS ROCHAT, EVA SINCLAIR

CELLO ADRIEN BELLOM, CHARBEL CHARBEL, SOPHIE CHAUVENET,
ERIC-MARIA COUTURIER, ARTHUR LAMARRE

DOUBLE BASS ETIENNE DURANTEL, EDOUARD MACAREZ,
BLANCHE STROMBONI

CHOIR SANKOFA UNIT
AUDREY AUDEL, NOÉMIE BOUSKILA, CHLOÉ BRETENSTEIN, LAURA
JACQUIN CELINI, YANN MORGAN COLONETTE, ADELINE CROUARD,
ADAM GARNIT, MAGDALEN GEFFRARD, SARAH GRICHE, YASMINE
HAFA, DORIAN KATEB, CLAUDIA LACERDA, AGATHE LECLERCQ,
KATIA MEVIL, CÉDRIC RANDRIANALY, MARC ANTOINE SCIALOM,
JOBY SMITH, JENNIFER THEVENOT, EMMA SCIALOM

MAIN ENGINEER OSCAR FERRAN

ANGELIQUE'S VOCALS RECORDED BY JEAN HEBRAIL

STRING ORCHESTRA RECORDED BY OSCAR FERRAN
& MARTIN ANTIPHON ASSISTED BY IGOR PRINCE
AT STUDIO FERBER (PARIS - FRANCE)

DRUMS, GUITARS, FENDER RHODES, PIANO,
TRUMPETS RECORDED BY OSCAR FERRAN AT
STUDIO DIASPORAS (IVRY-SUR-SEINE - FRANCE)

ELECTRIC BASS RECORDED BY OSCAR FERRAN
& SÉBASTIEN VIGUIER
AT STUDIO DIASPORAS (IVRY-SUR-SEINE - FRANCE)

PERCUSSION RECORDED BY NOAH DRESNER
AT REVIVAL AT THE COMPLEX STUDIO (LOS ANGELES - USA)

CHOIRS AND TRUMPETS RECORDED BY VINCENT JOINVILLE
ASSISTED BY FRANÇOIS LONGO
AT STUDIOS BABEL (MONTREUIL - FRANCE)

MIXED BY DOM MORLEY
AT FLINT BARN STUDIO (OXFORD - UK)

MASTERED BY EMILY LAZAR
ASSISTED BY CHRIS ALLGOOD
AT THE LODGE (NEW YORK - USA)

DESIGN BY PAUL RITTER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRANTLEY GUTIERREZ

MANAGEMENT FOR ANGELIQUE KIDJO: KEVIN MORRIS,
NATE ERWIN, TIA MCLEWEE FOR RED LIGHT MANAGEMENT
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WEB SITE KIDJO.COM
FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, TWITTER @ANGELIQUEKIDJO
TIKTOK ANGELIQUE_KIDJO

MANAGEMENT FOR IBRAHIM MAALOUF VIA MISTER IBÉ

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